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BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE BOROUGH

for the year ended 31st. December, 1945.

J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.

Members of the Public Health, Housing and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, 1944-5.

Chairman	- Councillor C. Chambers.
Deputy Chairman	- Councillor J. Stevenson.
His Worship the Mayor	- (Councillor T.H. Pailor, J.P.)
Aldermen	- W.P.G. Brownless. - F.J. Carr. H. Lightfoot.
Councillors	T.T. Aird. J. Beattie. G. Davison. E.S. Gardner. F. Harrison.
Mrs.	M. Smith) Serving only M. King) on the Maternity C. Davison) and Child M. Frain) Welfare N. Davison) Committee.

Health Department,
Frederic Street,
HARTLEPOOL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing, and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Hartlepool for the year 1945.

Vital statistics for the past year should again give rise to satisfaction. The Birth Rate of 22.8 per 1,000 has exceeded the previous very high figure of 21.97 for 1944 by .83, as compared with 16.1 for England and Wales as a whole. The Death Rate has increased slightly, being 13.97 per 1,000 against 13.89 last year and the Infantile Mortality Rate of 52.78, I am gratified to say, is the lowest ever recorded in Hartlepool. When one compares this figure with 142.3 deaths per 1,000 in 1942 the marked reduction in the number of deaths under one year can more clearly be appreciated.

Again I cannot record any improvement with regard to Tuberculosis in this town. As I stated last year, owing to the shortage of Sanatorium beds and due to the bad and overcrowded houses, children and young persons were constantly being exposed to the risk of infection from sputum positive cases. During the year 28 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, as against 29 last year, the attendance at the Tuberculosis Dispensary has almost trebled itself since 1942, now necessitating a further session per week. There is no doubt that this Council must take the matter in hand immediately and provide on the very highest priority good accommodation for Tuberculous families and to insist on Sanatorium treatment for those requiring it.

In 1944 it was expected that with the reduction in the number of Forces casualties there would be a corresponding increase in the number of Sanatorium beds. The reverse has proved the case as Sanatoria are finding it quite impossible to obtain staff. The outlook for 1946 does not suggest that there will be any improvement.

The Tubercle Bacillus is most resistant to drying, disinfectants etc. and can survive for many months in the dust of a room. Sunlight,

however, is lethal and it is for this reason that I am stressing the complete necessity for removing families where there is an infective case of Tuberculosis from their dark, overcrowded, and in many cases dilapidated homes.

Financial benefits for Tuberculous 'bread-winners' have been of very great help during the year but I would like to see its scope extended to all Tuberculous patients.

There were no serious epidemics during the year and good progress has been made in the immunisation against Diphtheria of pre-school and school children. Six cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year as against 26 in 1944. A small epidemic of Measles occurred at the beginning of the year but was of a minor character, no deaths were recorded.

Maternity and Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics functioned satisfactorily during the year and attendances showed a marked increase over last year. Good use has been made of the scheme whereby practitioners can now examine all patients free of charge and this scheme has been of special benefit to those cases whose circumstances required the examination to be carried out at their home.

I regret that the year 1945 foresaw the closing of the War-time Nurseries and though the Durham County Education Authority will take over Hart Road Nursery as a Nursery School I feel that there will be need of a Childrens' Nursery in the West View Area for those mothers who wish to work at the Trading Estate.

The Maternity Scheme has not functioned satisfactorily during the year, the beds provided by the Council not having been used to their full capacity. I regret that this scheme has not prospered but unless County Midwives become responsible in the first place to Hartlepool Corporation and/or Hartlepool Corporation provide a Maternity Home of its own I do not see how this scheme can grow.

Home and Domestic Helps have proved their worth during the year, the demand for their services being such that at times as many as 5 Helps have been working for the Corporation. The appointment of a full-time Home Help has in every way proved itself justified.

Once again, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Council, Ladies Voluntary Committee and the general practitioners for their co-operation and help during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. A. RODGERS.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Officer, Infant Welfare Centre:

J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors, Meat and Food Inspectors:

G. A. WARD, M.S.I.A.
Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.
Certificate of R.S.I. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

A. P. BATES, M.S.I.A (commenced 17-9-45)
Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.
Certificate of R.S.I. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

E. V. ABBEY (PART-TIME) (Resigned 27-9-45)
Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

MISS F. MITCHELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.
MISS W. STEVENSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (resigned 31-10-45)
MISS W. FICK, S.R.N. (recommenced after leave of absence - 12-11-45)
MISS B. M. STORER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (appointed permanent - 12-11-45)

CLERKS:

MISS I. BLENKIN.
MR. J. J. PRYDE (commenced full-time 16-7-45)
MISS J. A. PALLISTER (transferred to Durham County Council 31-3-45).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Area (Acres)	1,841
Population (Census 1931)	20,545
Population (estimated mid 1945)... ...	14,950
Rateable Value	£71,508
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£257. 10. 9d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Males	Females	Total
1. LIVE BIRTHS -	Legitimate	170	146	316
	Illegitimate	9	16	25
	Total	179	162	341

Birth Rate - 22.8

2. STILL BIRTHS-	Legitimate	5	2	7
	Illegitimate	-	1	1
	Total	5	3	8

Rate per 1,000 total births - 23.46

3. DEATHS		109	100	209

Crude Death Rate - 13.97

4. NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF, CHILDBIRTH -

from Sepsis ... ... -
" other causes ... 1

Rate per 1,000 total births - 2.93

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year - 18

5. DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 Year of Age per 1,000 live births - 52.78

Bequest 100 200

Item Double 1

Reference 3 6

Legacy 2 1

Item 1 2

6.	DEATHS from Measles (all ages)	-
	" " Whooping Cough	-
	" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4
	" " Influenza	-
	" " Diphtheria	-
	" " Cancer	41

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1935 - 1945.

YEAR	BIRTH RATE	DEATH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY
1935	18.8	16.3	86.8
1936	21.2	15.41	60.4
1937	19.5	14.14	67.4
1938	20.0	15.6	55.2
1939	18.5	14.5	75.0
1940	19.6	17.3	73.2
1941	17.08	16.74	68.0
1942	18.9	15.9	142.3
1943	20.33	14.5	91.5
1944	21.97	12.89	70.98
1945	22.8	13.97	52.78

BIRTHS.

During the year the number of live births registered was 341, comprising 179 males and 162 females and of this number 9 males and 16 females were illegitimate. The birth rate shows an increase, the figure being 22.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 21.97 in 1944.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowances for inward and outward transfers, was 209, comprising 109 males and 100 females, which gives a Crude Death Rate of 13.97.

The chief causes of death during the year were Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels 38; Cancer 41; all forms of Tuberculosis 14; and Bronchitis 20.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 18 as compared with 23 in 1944.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Disease	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1 mth. & under 3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	5
Prematurity	3	2	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	6
Inanition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Atelectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Convulsions	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro-Enteritis	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	4
Abdominal Ascites	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	6	2	1	1	10	4	1	2	1	18

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

Cause of Death	Males	Females
All causes	109	100

6.	Births (live males (all ages)	... ...	-
"	" Deaths Over	... ...	-
"	" Marriages (under 2 years of age)	... ...	+
"	" Returns	... ...	-
"	Diplomats	... ...	-
"	" Jews	... ...	41

UNITARIAN TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1935 - 1945.

	CRUDE RATE	CRUDE RATE	INFANT MORTALITY
1945	12.3	14.3	95.9
1944	11.7	13.4	100.4
1943	11.3	13.1	97.4
1942	10.1	11.8	89.2
1941	10.2	12.3	92.0
1940	10.4	12.1	93.5
1939	10.8	12.5	98.1
1938	11.0	12.8	101.3
1937	11.2	13.0	104.6
1936	11.5	13.4	108.2
1935	11.9	13.9	112.0
1934	12.1	14.2	115.7
1933	12.4	14.5	118.3

NOTE:

During the year ... a new ... by the ... was ...
... Mayor ... Bureau ... Life ... Bureau, ...
... 1,000 ... estimated population, ...
... 11.9 ...

DEATHS.

... number of ... reported ... was ...
... Life ... which ... 1,000, ...
... 1,000 ... Life ... which ...
... 1,000 ... Life ... which ...

Causes of death (Contd).

Cause of Death	Males	Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	4	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	1
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio Encephalitis	-	-
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer of buc; cav; & oesoph; (M), uterus (F)	1	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	4
Cancer of Breast	-	4
Cancer of all other sites	14	10
Diabetes	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	8	13
Heart Diseases	23	15
Other Diseases of Circ. System	5	5
Bronchitis	8	12
Pneumonia	9	2
Other resp. diseases	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	4	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Other digve. diseases	2	3
Nephritis	2	1
Puer. & post-abort. sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Premature birth	3	3
Con. mal. birth inj. infant. diseases	1	2
Suicide	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
Other violent causes	5	4
All other causes	11	7

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

At the beginning of the report a list is given showing all officers connected with the Health Services of the Borough.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations in connection with Infectious Disease are carried out at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by arrangement with Durham County Council.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases - Infectious Diseases are removed by the Ambulance belonging to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

With the cessation of the A.R.P. service the Town Ambulance has now been removed from Health Department control.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

Provisions are as for previous years.

| | | |

3. MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The following table shows the number of maternity cases admitted to Hartlepools Hospital who made use of the beds provided by the Council:-

February	2	July	1
March	3	August	3
April	4	September	5
May	3	October	10
June	3	November	5
		December	5

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever cases are admitted to Howbeck Hospital and also to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

As previously reported these Clinics are held at West View and Frederic Street Clinics and patients are also examined in their own homes. Altogether 194 women were examined during the year which is an increase on the figure of 176 for last year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.

The Borough is supplied with water by the Hartlepools Gas & Water Company and the supply, though hard, is abundant and of good quality.

Below is a report of the Public Analyst on a sample of water submitted for analysis:-

	Parts per 100,000
Chlorine as Chlorides	13.0000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.0694
Ammonia	.0047
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0022
Oxygen Absorption	.0244
Injurious Metals	None
Total Solid Matter dried @ 100° C.	84.0000

Temporary Hardness ...	24.4 degrees
Permanent Hardness ...	15.2 "

Colour of sample on Hazen Scale	4
Appearance of Sample in 2 foot tube..	Not quite clear
Odour when heated to 50° C.	None.

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.

Small deposit from ½ gallon consisting of earthy matter, particles of rust, vegetable debris, fungus growths, but no visible micro-organisms.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37°C after 72 hours	3 in 2 ml.
Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20-22°C after 72 hours.	6 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37°C after 72 hours	(Positive in 50 ml. (Negative in 40 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 45°C	1 small colony in 40 ml.

OBSERVATIONS.

The chemical analysis affords normal results for this supply, and there is no indication of contamination by undesirable drainage

containing excessive amounts of nitrogenous constituents such as are found in sewage-contaminated drainage. Confirmation of this is to be found in the results of the bacteriological examination, but a slight defect is noticeable in the microscopical examination, to correct which it would be advisable for the mains in the area to be flushed.

(Signed) CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1332
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3134
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	-
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	-
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1274

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	879

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

A- Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	78
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) by owners	43
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	9

B- Proceedings under the Public Health Act:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) by owners	4
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	2

C- Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-

D- Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-

(Sign 1) CYRIL J. STOCK.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS.

I hereby certify that during the year ended 31st December, 1936, the number of houses in respect of which the following proceedings were taken under the Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1925 and 1935, was as follows:-

1. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses determined in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... -

(3) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after Demolition Orders were made ... ... -

2. Proceedings under section 15 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after Closing Orders were made:-

(a) by local authority in default of owners 5

(b) by owners 4

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after Closing Orders were made, but which subsequently became unfit for human habitation and were again closed ... ... -

3. Proceedings under the Public Health Act:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 15

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:-

(a) by local authority in default of owners 5

(b) by owners 4

4. Proceedings under section 17 and 19 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling-houses determined in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... -

(3) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after Demolition Orders were made ... ... -

5. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

6. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

7. Action under Enactments Powers during the Year (Closing Orders):-

Number of dwelling-houses rendered unfit for human habitation or otherwise objected to by the Local Authority on grounds of insufficient water supply 679

8. Number of Notices served during the Year (Closing Orders):-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of such notices 1574

(3) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

(4) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) ... ... -

(5) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the execution of works ... ... -

(6) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the closing of houses ... ... -

(7) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the demolition of houses ... ... -

(8) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the execution of works and the closing of houses ... ... -

(9) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the execution of works and the demolition of houses ... ... -

(10) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the closing and demolition of houses ... ... -

(11) Number of undertakings (enquiry to cease pursuant to undertaking withdrawn) to be met by the execution of works, the closing and demolition of houses ... ... -

(12) Number of undertakings withdrawn ... ... -

(13) Number of undertakings withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

(14) Number of undertakings withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

(15) Number of undertakings withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

9. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

10. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

11. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

12. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

13. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

14. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

15. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

16. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

17. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

18. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

19. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

20. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

21. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

22. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

23. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

24. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

25. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

26. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

27. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

28. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

29. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

30. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

31. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

32. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

33. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

34. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

35. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

36. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

37. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

38. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

39. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

40. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

41. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

42. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

43. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

44. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

45. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

46. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

47. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

48. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

49. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

50. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

51. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

52. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

53. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

54. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

55. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

56. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

57. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

58. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

59. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

60. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

61. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

62. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

63. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

64. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

65. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

66. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

67. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

68. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

69. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

70. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

71. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

72. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

73. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

74. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

75. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

76. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

77. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

78. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

79. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

80. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

81. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

82. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

83. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

84. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

85. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

86. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

87. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

88. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

89. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

90. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

91. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

92. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

93. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn ... ... -

94. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed ... ... -

95. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and accepted ... ... -

96. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were withdrawn and subsequently renewed and not accepted ... ... -

97. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) in respect of which notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation were served 1574

98. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of notices requiring the execution of works necessary to render them fit for human habitation 1574

99. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted as an alternative to the service of notices ... ... -

100. Number of houses (exclusive of those included under 4) which were rendered fit in consequence of undertakings ... ... -

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... -

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, - Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 505
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 505
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 2,373

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... -

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... ... ... -
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... -

(d) Particulars of any such cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding (abated after informal action had been taken) ... -

(e) Any other particulars in respect of overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ... -

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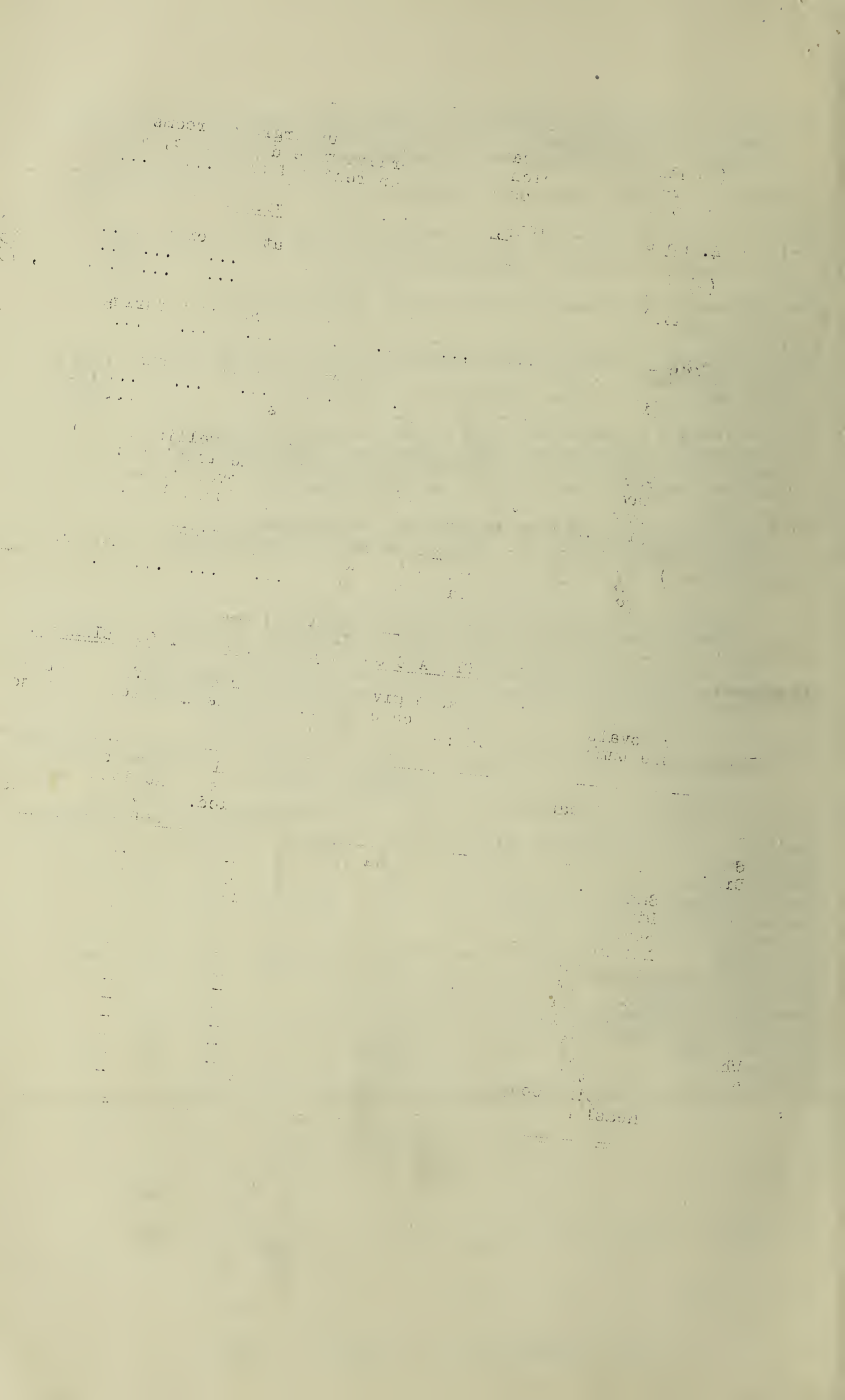
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table gives the number of notifications and removals to Hospital of cases of Infectious Disease, and also the number of deaths:-

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Number of Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	6	6	-
Scarlet Fever	29	9	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargia	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles	306	-	-



AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 yr	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	6
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	2	1	16	3	4	-	1	-	-	29
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	18	46	44	55	31	110	2	-	-	-	-	-	306

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 29 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year of whom 9 were admitted to Hospital, those cases where satisfactory isolation could be maintained remaining at home.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 6 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, there being no deaths from these cases. All these cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Up to December, 1945 67.37 of the pre-school children and 61.37 of the children of school age in Hartlepool had been immunised against Diphtheria.

MEASLES.

306 cases of Measles were notified during the year but no deaths occurred from this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

No cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

47 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, showing an increase of 19 over 1944, but of these 47 notifications 19 had been receiving treatment over quite a time but had not been notified, therefore the actual number of new cases notified was 28. The total deaths were 15, which is an increase of 3 as compared with 1944.

The following table shows the number of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis for the Borough of Hartlepool during 1945.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				TOTAL DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 "	-	1	4	5	-	-	-	-
15-25 "	9	4	1	2	-	1	-	-
25-35 "	3	4	1	2	-	5	-	-
35-45 "	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
45-55 "	2	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
55-65 "	2	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 and up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	17	10	11	9	5	10	-	-

The following is a comparative table of the number of new cases and the number of deaths from Tuberculosis over the past eight years:-

	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Total New Cases	28	29	27	27	25	35	38	33
Total Deaths	15	12	14	13	24	19	14	23

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one death from this cause during the year.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Number of Legitimate Births 316
Number of Illegitimate Births.. 25
Number of Still Births... 8

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 22.8

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:-

Legitimate 16
Illegitimate 2
18

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births:-

Legitimate ... ... 46.91.
Illegitimate 5.86

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

YEARS	HARTLEPOOL	ENGLAND & WALES
1936	60.4	59
1937	67.4	58
1938	55.2	63
1939	75.0	50
1940	73.2	55
1941	68.0	59
1942	142.3	49
1943	91.5	49
1944	70.9	46
1945	52.7	46

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Work in the Child Welfare Clinics progressed satisfactorily, the attendances having increased by 220 during the year.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics during the year:-

Total Attendances during the year:- 4,565

1. By children under 1 year of age 3,539
2. By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years .. 1,026

Average number of children attending per session .. 88

Total number of children who made first attendances:- 491

1. By children under 1 year of age 391
2. By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years .. 100

Number of children who received Artificial Sunlight Treatment:-

1. Children under 1 year of age.. 5
2. Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.. .. 18

DEFECTS FOUND IN CHILDREN ATTENDING THE CLINIC.

DISEASE	Number under 1 year	Number over 1 year	DISEASE	Number under 1 year	Number over 1 year
Injury to leg	-	1	Tongue Tied	1	-
Enteritis	3	-	Injury to finger	-	1
Eczema	2	3	Blepharitis	-	1
Constipation	9	-	Injury to tongue	-	1
Talipes	1	-	Squint	-	1
Phimoses	1	1	Tonsils	-	1
Rickets	1	1	Decayed teeth	-	1
Otorrhoea	-	2	Septic Sores	-	1
Conjunctivitis	3	1	Injury to hip	-	1
Debility	-	2	Cardiac	-	1
Mastoid	-	1	Umbilical Hernia	10	-
Malformation Penis	1	-	Malnutrition	1	1
Torticollis	1	-	Scabies	-	2
Injury to head	1	-	Ulcerated Mouth	-	1
Worms	-	1	Pyloric Stenosis	1	-
Burns	-	1	Injury to knee	-	1
			Bronchitis	-	2

Number of Visits paid by Health Visitors:-

(a) To Expectant Mothers ... ... First Visits 157
Total Visits 162

(b) To Children under 1 year ... First Visits 315
Total Visits 1,585

(c) To Children between 1 and 5 years ... ... Total Visits 1,817

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Health Department,
Frederic Street,
HARTLEPOOL.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration the Annual Report, being the sixth summary report, on the work of my Department for the year 1945.

During the year under review most of my duties had to be neglected on account of the demands made on my time in dealing with the widespread and severe damage to domestic property occasioned by the gale of January. However important these duties may be their efficient execution would have been no palliative to members of the public who had to live for so long in severely damaged houses. Even in past years an undue proportion of my time has, owing to the very low standard of housing conditions extant throughout the town, been devoted to property repairs.

These conditions brought to a head my representations of previous years of the difficulties in carrying out my duties properly, owing to lack of assistance, and approval was obtained during the year to the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector, who commenced duties in September.

For the foregoing reasons there is nothing calling for comment in other aspects of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. WARD.

HEALTH AND HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Gale Damage.

Under this head last year I reported that owing to a gale in November there was a fair number of outstanding notices at the end of the year and that by the close of the year only about one half of the gale damaged properties had been repaired by the depleted labour force available. This, however, only proved to be a foretaste of what was in store for at 10.45 on the evening of Thursday, 18th. January, the district was struck by a gale and by 12.30 the velocity of the wind had reached 90 m.p.h. The wind died down as fast as it had arisen and was followed by a fall of snow and frost. Very widespread and severe damage was caused in the town, particularly on the headland, and this was probably due to the fact that part of the town so affected is a peninsula and thus very exposed to the wind. In numerous cases damage to roofs had rendered houses uninhabitable and the position was not improved by the fact that in a good number of cases chimney stacks had collapsed into the houses beneath; the

streets were littered with debris. At a later date over 100 tons of debris were removed from the streets. Snow and frost persisted for another fortnight, during which time it was impossible to carry out any repair work at all. This period of grace, however, allowed a better assessment of the position to be made and plans prepared to meet the emergency. It was obvious that the building labour available in the town was insufficient to cope with the work expeditiously; there were no slates available.

A sub-committee of the Council was appointed, with plenary powers, to deal with the problem. A meeting was held with representatives of the Property Owners Association who, whilst promising full support in abating the damage, were of the opinion that previous war damage had a direct bearing on the amount of damage caused.

The facts were immediately reported to the Regional Offices of the Ministries of Health and War Damage, with a view to soliciting their help in arranging for the repairs to be carried out as speedily as possible and, secondly, to try and persuade the War Damage Commission to accept responsibility for a proportion of the cost of repairs where it could be reasonably claimed that the earlier war damage had accentuated the amount of gale damage. This contention was rejected, though there is no doubt that unseen war damage to roofs had been brought to light in a number of cases by the severity of the gale, on the grounds that properties had withstood previous, though lesser, gales and that no complaints of unsatisfactory repair work arising out of war damage had been lodged. This argument was difficult to repudiate.

A survey of the gale damage was made by a Ministry of Health representative who was quickly convinced of the seriousness of the position and who fully supported the Council's representations to Government Departments for additional labour and materials to be made available; at that time London had priority for war damage. It is pleasing and very satisfactory to note that except in the early days very little difficulty or delay was occasioned through non-availability of slates, which were in very short supply at that time.

During the wintry spell following the gale it was obvious, from the way in which complaints poured into the Department, that some responsibility in the matter could not be evaded. With the thaw a complete survey of the town, street by street, was commenced and all damaged houses inspected. All these houses were classified in accordance with the degree of damage, size of family and available living space, as having sustained urgent, severe or moderate damage. At the same time enquiries were made as to with whom the orders for repairs had been placed. Close co-operation was maintained with all local builders who readily gave priority of treatment to houses whose repairs were classified as urgent or severe. An additional purpose served by this survey was to see that eventually all damage was repaired and to take the necessary action to see that repairs would be carried out at those houses in respect of which no orders were known to have been placed. Non-urgent work to properties was left until a later date.

The supply of available slates was soon exhausted and, pending the arrival of supplies being arranged by the Ministry of Works, it was found possible to obtain the release of stocks of slates from emergency war repair depots (facilitated by the approaching end of hostilities) till the diverted supplies arrived.

The following summary indicates the extent of the damage:-

Property with roof and other material damage			Property with damage other than roof damage.	Total.
Urgent	Severe	Moderate		
54	379	497	145	1,075

These figures represent about one-third of the available working class accomodation in the town, excluding new houses. The position, however, was much worse than the figures suggest as a lot of the properties damaged were first floor houses or 'flats' and very often the ground floor house also suffered a nuisance. Further, about 130 houses which had been severely damaged by the explosion of a sea mine were again badly damaged before the initial repairs had been treated; these properties were repaired as war damage. Severe damage was also caused to a lot of old houses owned by the Council, which were repaired by the appropriate Department.

The urgent representations of the Council and of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Health with regard to labour were successful and a local building firm had four of their slaters and two apprentices released from bomb damage repairs in London to assist locally. The attention of all builders was drawn to this and it was suggested that they sub-let as much roofing work as possible.

With regard to property repairs where no information was available that the necessary orders had been placed, all agents and owners were circularised indicating repairs necessary to remedy the gale damage and pointing out that additional labour had been made available if, as many owners had, they had experienced difficulty in placing their orders. 73 circular letters, which were treated as informal notices, were sent out, relating to 650 houses (one Agency alone was responsible for 394 damaged houses). It is not suggested, however, that in all of these cases action by this Department was required, as no doubt orders had already been placed in a number of cases. It was also necessary to serve a small number of Statutory Notices not included in this figure.

Apart from the actual survey and noting of repairs carried out a lot of work was entailed in interviews with builders and owners to ensure that one builder had the necessary orders to carry out repairs that affected two houses under different ownership, i.e. chimney stacks, etc.

The weather conditions for two months after the thaw, together with the additional labour, enabled very rapid strides to be made in repairs to badly damaged houses, though during the bad weather a lot of tenants had to put up with great inconvenience for a long time.

The table below indicates the progress made to the end of the year:-

	Urgent	Severe	Slight	Other Damage	Total Repaired
Number damaged	54	379	497	145	1,075
Repaired @ 31.3.45	45	203	125	15	388
" 30.6.45	54	363	355	50	822
" 30.9.45	54	359	440	63	916
" 31.12.45	54	379	484	76	993
Outstanding at year end	-	-	13	69	82

In addition to roof repairs good progress had been made with other repairs. It was necessary in 17 cases to re-roof the house, 3 houses being re-roofed on default after the service of Statutory Notices, and in 36 cases to rebuild chimney stacks.

Even with the rapid rate of progress immediately after the gale there were many complaints as to delay in dealing with badly damaged properties, but in view of the shortage of materials and labour, the extent of damage caused and the inherent slowness of available legal procedure I do not think the policy followed could be improved on. I think the achievements reflected every credit on the local builders and on the various officers of the Ministry Departments in that the repair work went so expeditiously and smoothly. The summarised results of action taken are given later.

Abatement of Nuisances, other than Gale Damage.

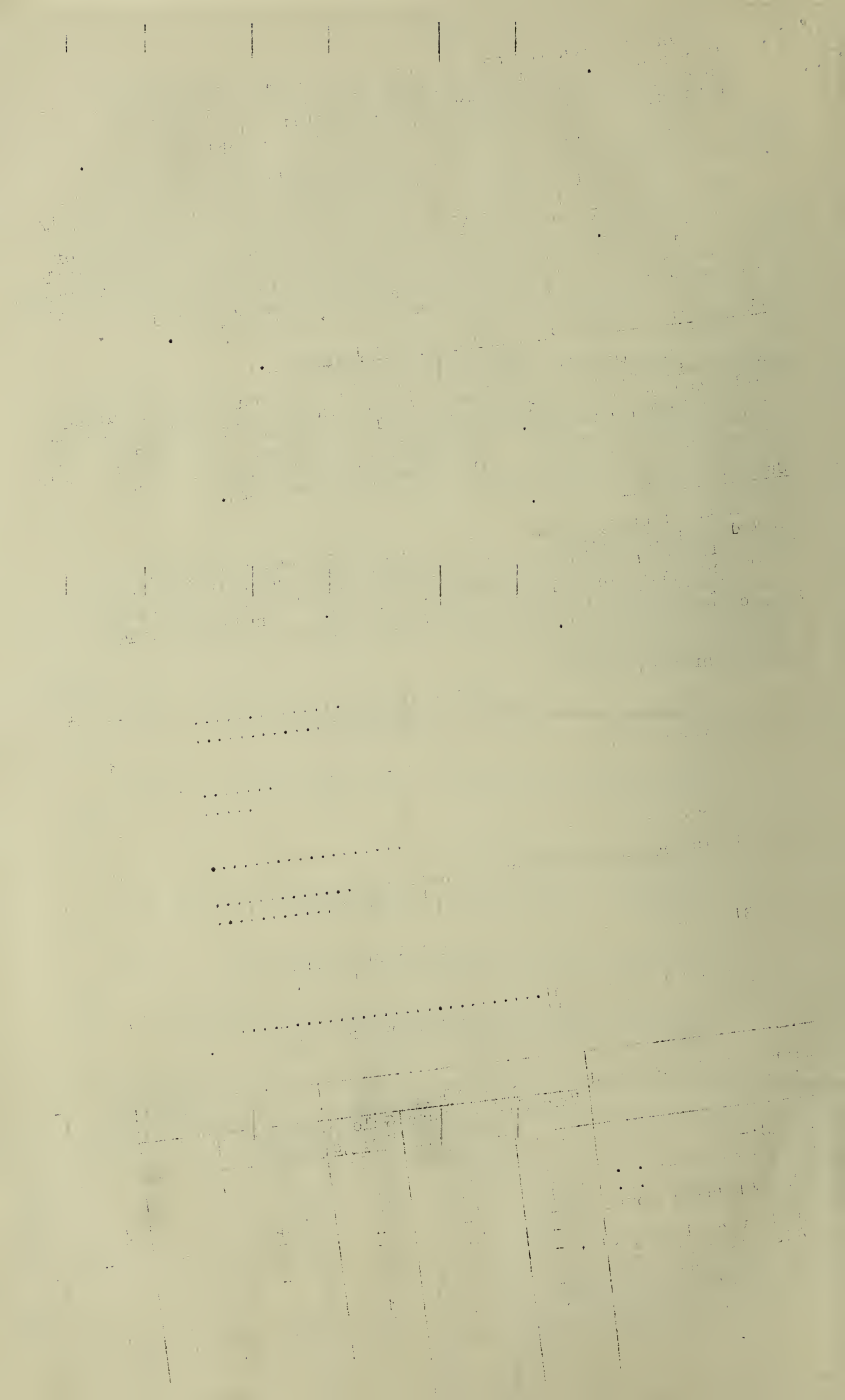
Not unnaturally it was only possible to secure the execution of the minimum of essential repairs but in cases of undue emergency builders were requested to forego gale damage repairs and deal with the particular nuisance. Needless to say there was a considerable amount of delay though, as the following statistics show, good headway had been made with the accumulation of work.

Summary of action taken.

A total of 1,332 houses were inspected during the year, including 1,075 with gale damage, for defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts and a total of 3,135 inspections were made, including 2,116 for gale damaged properties. 9 nuisances were abated by the Council on default of the owner of which 4 were in respect of gale damage.

		Total
Informal Notices served - nuisances.....	139	
gale damage.....	80	
		219
Informal Notices complied with - nuisances.....	119	
gale damage.....	65	
		184
Second or Reminder Notices sent.....		83
Statutory Notices served - nuisances.....	26	
gale damage.....	43	
		69
Statutory Notices complied with - nuisances	10	
gale damage	31	
		41
Warning letters sent.....		10
Nuisances abated without service of written notice.		5

Sanitary Improvements Effected under notice:-	BY OWNER			BY COUNCIL ON DEFAULT		Total
	Verbal	Nuisances	Gale Damage	Nuisances	Gale Damage	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
DWELLING HOUSES:-						
Repaired or made fit - P.H.A.	3	90	55	2	-	150
H.A.	1	78	652	4	5	740
Provided with damp proof course	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roofs repaired	-	41	593	3	4	641
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	-	9	-	-	-	9
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	-	14	1	2	-	17
Windows repaired, made to open, etc.		9	24	-	1	34



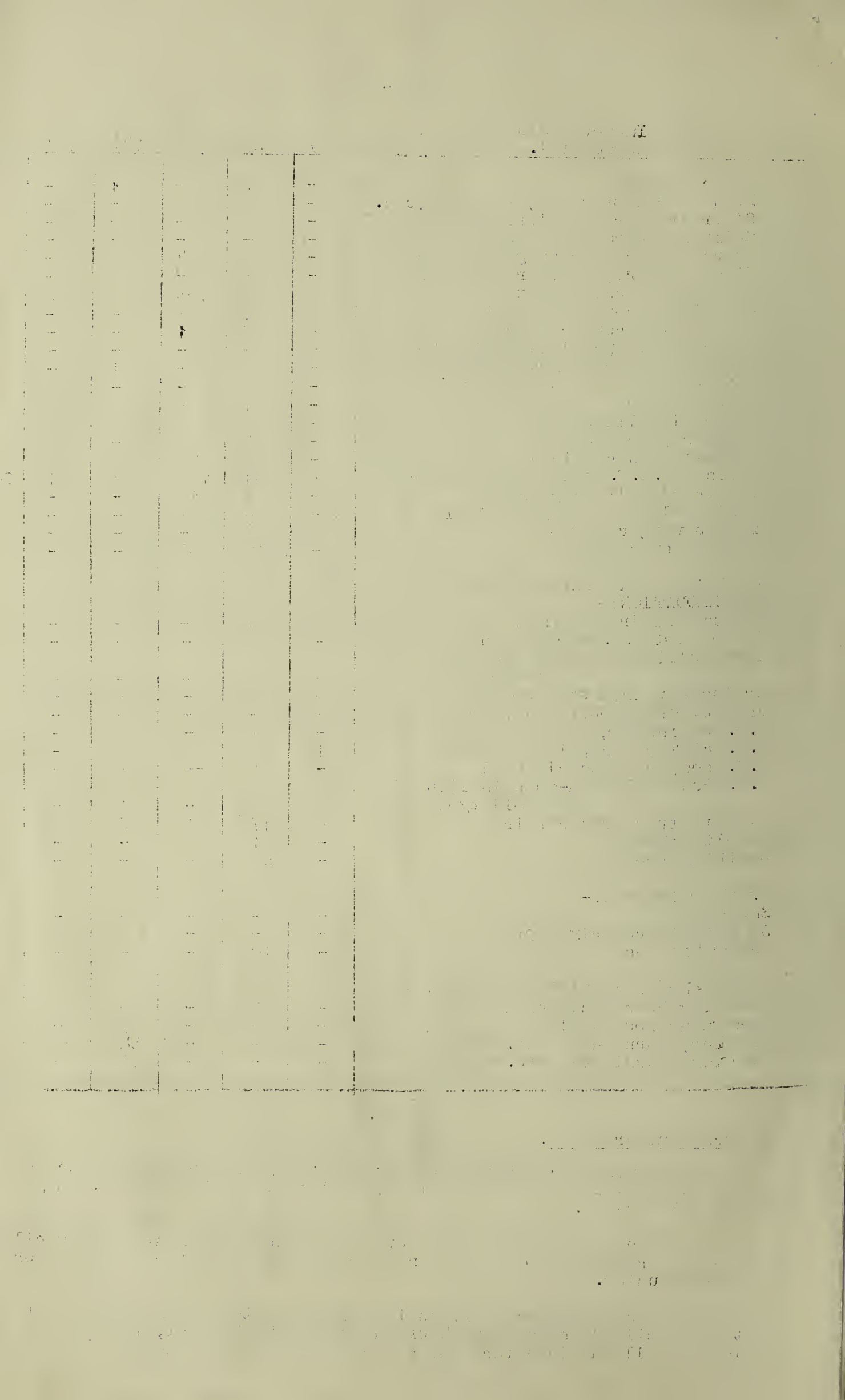
Sanitary Improvements effected under notice (contd).	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sashcords renewed	-	12	-	1	-	13
Food Stores provided, repaired, etc.	-	2	-	-	-	2
Stairs repaired, internal & external	-	5	-	-	-	5
Skirting Boards provided or repaired	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	-	20	24	2	-	46
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	-	9	-	-	-	9
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	1	8	183	2	2	196
New sinks provided and fixed	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	-	8	1	-	-	9
Water supply provided inside houses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wash coppers repaired or renewed	-	8	-	1	-	9
Copper firesets repaired or renewed	-	4	-	-	-	4
Pumps repaired	-	1	-	1	-	2
External walls pointed	-	8	2	1	-	11
Ovens repaired or renewed	-	3	-	-	-	3
Outbuildings repaired	-	10	44	1	-	55
Eaves & R.W.P. renewed or repaired	-	54	185	2	1	242
Dangerous walls repaired	-	2	11	-	-	13
Yards and passages paved & drained	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yard paving repaired	-	6	-	-	-	6
Water services repaired	-	12	37	-	-	49
DRAINS, WATER CLOSETS & ASHES ACCOMMODATION:-						
Obstructed drains cleansed	2	7	-	-	-	9
Obstructed W.C.'s cleansed	-	7	-	-	-	7
Yard gullies provided and connected to drains	-	1	-	-	-	1
Drains repaired or reconstructed	-	3	-	-	-	3
Inspection chamber covers renewed	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.C. basins renewed	-	7	-	2	-	9
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	1	18	1	2	-	22
W.C. compartments cleansed	-	1	--	-	-	1
W.C. Pedestal wash-down in lieu of old type	-	5	-	1	-	6
Closet structures repaired	-	17	1	3	1	22
Ashpits abolished	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dustbins provided	-	40	-	-	-	40
OTHER NUISANCES:-						
Smoke	-	-	-	-	-	-
Animals improperly kept	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulations	-	10	-	-	-	10
DIRTY AND/OR VERMINOUS PREMISES:-						
Dwelling houses cleansed	-	2	-	-	-	2
Verminous houses cleansed	-	-	-	23	-	23
Bedding, furniture, etc. disinfected	-	-	-	84	-	84
Bedding, furniture, etc. destroyed	-	-	-	13	-	13

Verminous Premises.

23 houses were disinfected during the year for the presence of bed bugs and of these properties 10 belonged to the Council; they were old houses.

The furniture and effects of 18 prospective tenants of Council houses were inspected and the necessary remedial action taken prior to re-housing.

It was again necessary on two occasions to obtain an order of the Council under section 84 of the Public Health Act, 1936 to destroy all the furniture and effects of the occupants of two houses,



the occupants having been removed to an institution as being verminous. In both cases vermin infestation was by fleas, bugs and lice and one was the worst case I have ever had.

The question of elderly single occupiers of houses, particularly in this town, is going to be a pressing one when housing activities are renewed. The problem is a social one and whilst at first these people may be reasonably able to look after themselves and their houses, as they get older they are not capable of maintaining their person and home in a requisite state of cleanliness and may become verminous. They prize their independence and very naturally take very strong objections to institutional treatment even though they are assured of medical supervision and I, personally, am loth to force them into institutions unless circumstances fully merit it.

The alternative would appear to be the provision of homes for the aged where they are assured of helpful supervision from a trained warden and his wife.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The closure of the Fish Meal Factory is to be noted during the year. As in the previous year it had only been working to part of its capacity and was, in these circumstances, relatively free from nuisance. There would appear to be, when the fishing industry returns to normal, a demand for such a factory in this area but the siting of the existing factory, even if provided with modern condensing and deodorising apparatus, is not suitable in view of the offensive nature of the material handled and the proximity of houses to the tenants of which it would be as it has been, a nuisance.

During the year the Council gave consent to the establishment of the offensive trade of a Curer, in premises originally built for this purpose.

All premises were well maintained and informal action secured the abatement of any unsatisfactory conditions.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Food Inspections.

The total number of meat and food inspections carried out was 41, a considerable reduction on last year.

The total weight of food stuffs condemned during the year was 1 ton 12 cwt. 4 st., an increase of 11 cwt. over last year, which is accounted for by the fact that it was necessary to condemn 26 cwt. of herrings owing to decomposition. Allowing for this amount of fish the total weight of food condemned shows a considerable reduction over last year.

Ice Cream.

With the resumption of the manufacture of ice cream, registrations were granted for the purpose of the manufacture of ice cream in two cases and in one instance for the sale of ice cream.

These premises were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Nothing calling for comment arose under this head. During the year it was not possible to carry out any sampling of graded or raw milks, owing to pressure of other work.

Restaurant Kitchens.

In one case the mode of ventilation was improved and in two instances informal action secured the provision of proper containers for pig swill. In other respects nothing arose calling for adverse comments.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year the work of replacing the second and major batch of insanitary and defective pail closets mentioned in last years report, was completed at a large Works in the town. A new block of 25 W.C.'s was built and provided with a Urinal and a caretaker's office and, no sewer being available, drainage is to a septic tank, the effluent eventually being discharged into the sea. All that remains now is the reconstruction of some unsatisfactory Urinals as and when circumstances permit.

Other miscellaneous and minor defects found on inspection were remedied on request.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

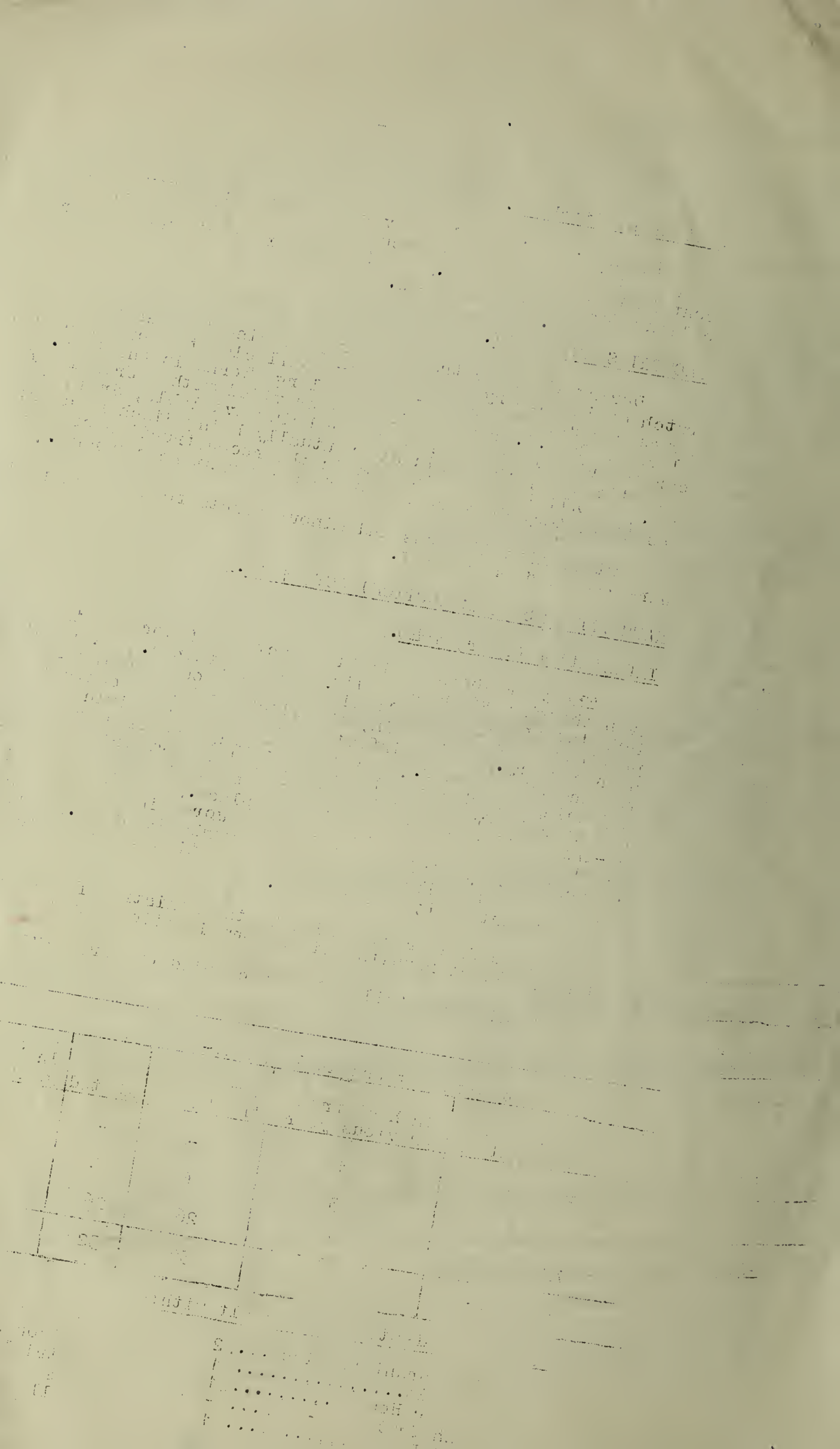
The year shows a slight reduction of work in this direction, even though a vigorous policy was maintained. A total of 37 infested areas was dealt with, 5 being outstanding from the previous year and, again, the block system of control was used as necessary. 5 infested areas were receiving treatment at the end of the year. It is extremely doubtful whether the area adjoining the docks and classed as ' reservoir' type will ever be entirely free of rats whilst put to its present use; sporadic re-infestation constantly taking place. The control of some of the major infestations in large works in the town could only be achieved by dividing them into workable areas. The minor incidents generally represent infestation of domestic or small shop properties by odd rodents.

The methods recommended by the Ministry of Food continue to give excellent results and no formal action was required.

Tabulated details of work carried out are given below:-

Types of Infestations dealt with:-

Degree of Infestation	In hand from previous year	New treatments	Abated	In hand at year end	Dead recovered Rats	Mice
Reservoir	1	-	-	1	37	22
Major	3	6	6	3	382	-
Minor	1	26	26	1	141	100
Totals:-	5	32	32	5	560	122

Types of Infested areas dealt with:-

Restaurant premises...	2	Salvage Depots.....	1
Schools.....	1	Food Shops.....	6
Public Houses.....	1	Industrial premises...	3
Fish Trade premises...	-	Blocks of houses.....	16
Food Depots.....	1	Miscellaneous.....	6